



Press Release

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Idaho Potato Production Up 11 Percent

Idaho's potato production is expected to total 143 million cwt, up 11 percent from last year's 129 million cwt, and 27 percent above the 2010 crop. Planted acres of 345,000 and harvested acres of 344,000 are up 25,000 acres from 2011. Statewide, yield per acre is estimated to be a record 416 cwt, up 12 cwt from last year. Yield per acre in the 10 Southwestern counties, at 520 cwt, decreased 20 cwt from last year. Acreage for the 10 Southwest counties, at 20,000 acres planted and harvested, increased 1,000 acres from last year. Because of the acreage increase, total production in the area is up 1 percent from last year at 10.4 million cwt. In Idaho's "other counties," yield per acre is estimated at 410 cwt, compared to 395 cwt a year ago. Other area production from 324,000 harvested acres is expected to total 133 million cwt, 12 percent above last year's 119 million cwt.

Data from the Potato Objective Yield Survey shows that 32.9 percent of the russet potatoes were at least ten ounces, up from 25.6 percent that reached that size in 2011 and 20.0 percent that reached that size in 2010. Of the Russet potatoes in the 2012 sample, 80.9 percent met the 2.0 inch or 4 oz. minimum size and grade requirements for U.S. No. 1 potatoes, up from 80.2 percent last year. Processing grade and U.S. No. 2 potatoes, with a 1.5 inch minimum, accounted for 18.0 percent of the 2012 crop.

National production of fall potatoes for 2012 is forecast at 422 million cwt, up 8 percent from last year. Area harvested, at 991,500 acres, is 6 percent above the 2011 estimate. The average yield forecast, at 425 cwt per acre, is up 9 cwt per acre from last year's yield.

Idaho's 2012 dry edible bean production totaled 3.02 million cwt, up 61 percent from last year's production of 1.88 million cwt. Planted acreage of 145,000 and harvested acreage of 144,000 increased from last year's 95,000 acres planted and 94,000 acres harvested. Average yield was 2,100 pounds per acre, up 100 pounds from the previous year. Chickpea (garbanzo) production accounted for the largest portion of Idaho's dry bean crop with 41.1 percent of the total. Pinto production more than doubled from last year to account for 29.5 percent of Idaho's production. Small Red production accounted for 9.6 percent of production. Pink production accounted for 7.0 percent of Idaho's production. Navy production accounted for 4.2 percent of production. Black production accounted for 2.1 percent of Idaho's production, and Great Northern production accounted for 1.9 percent. Dark red kidneys, light red kidneys, cranberries, and other classes made up the remaining dry edible bean production in Idaho. Of the ten classes of dry edible beans estimated for Idaho during 2012, all except Great Northerns posted production gains from last year.

Nationally, United States dry edible bean production is forecast at 31.8 million cwt for 2012, up 60 percent from 2011. Planted area is estimated at 1.74 million acres, up 43 percent from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 1.70 million acres, 45 percent above the previous year. The average United States yield is forecast at 1,873 pounds per acre, an increase of 170 pounds from 2011. If realized, yield will be a record high, exceeding the previous record of 1,768 pounds set in 2008. Production is estimated to be greater in 16 of the 18 States in the dry bean program in 2012. The largest producing state, North Dakota, is forecast to produce 11.7 million cwt, up 137 percent from 2011.

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